



WTC TRAVELING MEMORIAL

**OFFICE OF FAMILY
SUPPORT**- *Serving
Connecticut families who lost
loved ones in the September
11th terrorists' attacks.*

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The World Trade Center Traveling Memorial will be on display at the Connecticut Police Chief Association's Quarterly Meeting and Expo at the Aqua Turf Restaurant in Plantsville on Thursday, April 24, 2003. The Office of Family Support will be sending out special invitations to family members in early April for your consideration for participation.

The World Trade Center Memorial was founded by Retired Port

Authority Police Lieutenants Chester Weekes and Gene Smith and honors the memory of all who were lost on September 11th and the immeasurable sacrifice made by them. The exhibit, which may or may not be of interest to you, is a pictorial display with stories of lost heroes, artifacts and everyday items recovered from Ground Zero and videos of the WTC being built to footage of it burning.



WALT DISNEY WORLD PASSES

Walt Disney World in Florida is offering 9/11 families complimentary "Park Hopper Passes." Immediate family members who shared a household with a victim of September 11 are eligible for this Compassion Program. Guests can visit any of the Walt Disney World Theme Parks for up to 3 days. You may call Cindy Barron, Community Relations Coordinator at 407-828-3118 for more information.

**ASK THE
PSYCHOLOGIST**
By Julian Ford Ph.D

Question:
*"How do I talk
with my children
about war and
terrorism?"*

The starting point is to remember that most kids already know from watching TV or hearing from friends or school that terrorism is a threat and war is possible--and that people in our country and across the world have very mixed and strong feelings about this. It is important not to act like nothing is happening, but also not to cause children to feel more fearful than is realistic and helpful.

First, pay attention to how your children are getting information and what they're thinking about terrorism and war. Don't make radical changes in how you handle things like if, when, what kinds, and how much TV or movies your children are allowed to watch -- but don't let kids of any age be flooded with long periods of media reporting that might lead them to feel that something terrible already is happening. This includes if they are bystanders while you watch TV or movies.

Second, help them feel safe in ways that are age appropriate. Preschool or early elementary school kids mostly want to see that you and other adults such as childcare providers

or teachers know how to make things safe for them and for their family. Talking about world events isn't helpful because they don't really have a concept of war or terrorism, and trying to explain this only causes confusion and misses the main point for them-- "Show me through your actions that I and the people I care about are dependable and safe."

Beginning at age 7 or 8, children tune into the larger world and ask questions about why bad things happen and why people do what they do. You can ask your children what they think about war or how they think our country should make things safe here and in the world. You can help most by reassuring your child that your family and lots of other people in our country and in the world are working hard on finding the best ways to make things safe -- and that if bad things happen, your family has a plan for being together and being safe. Tool kits such as those developed for family safety by the Red Cross can be a great source of practical examples to share with your kids.

Teenagers are likely to be concerned about moral issues, and they want to feel that they can make their own choices and be in control. Asking their views about terrorism alerts and the news about Iraq, North Korea, and the United Nations can provide you with a chance to allay some of their worries by distinguishing facts from fears and media exaggerations. What's most important is to support and help them

express their basic values--like not letting bullies hurt anyone, but also not ignoring other people's views or letting innocent people get hurt when dealing firmly with a bully.

For children of all ages, it is important to show that you are concerned about safety and potential dangers, but not too angry or fearful or opinionated to be able to calmly and thoughtfully handle things. This doesn't mean never getting upset with or in front of your children -- we're all human and sometimes have strong feelings -- but it does mean that the best help you can give your children is to show them through your actions that even if you're concerned or upset you still care about them and know how to help them be safe. That goes not just for major world events but for everyday stresses.

A great source of more specific tools for talking with children about dangerous or threatening situations can be found on the website for the National Center for Children Exposed to Violence, www.ncccev.org.

Editor's Note: Dr. Ford is a professor of psychiatry at the UCONN Health Center.

RED CROSS GIFTS

Due to the continued generosity of the American people who wish to help those affected by the September 11 attacks, the American Red Cross is able to increase the Supplemental (Estate) Gift from a flat gift of \$45,000 to \$55,000.

The Red Cross's Supplemental Gift Program is a flat payment of \$55,000 to the verified executors, administrators, or other personal representatives of the estates of the deceased as well as to those who suffered a serious verifiable physical injury. For those who were injured, the individual must have required hospitalization for a minimum of 24 hours during the week of Sept. 11 through Sept. 18, 2001 and the injury must have resulted in disability. The Red Cross is distributing these payments to each estate and to each person who was physically injured and experienced a continuous 90-day period of disability. Red Cross has mailed eligible beneficiaries informational materials and an application to complete, where appropriate.

Those who have already received the \$45,000 gift will receive an additional \$10,000 and those who have not yet received the gift will receive a check totaling \$55,000. Checks are being mailed over the next few weeks. If you have any questions regarding the Supplemental Gift Program, please contact Mary Grace Pagaduan at 203-972-5852.

MESSAGES FROM THE MEMORIAL BOARD

The Memorial Board and the Quilts designed by CT's 9/11 families will be on display at the Cheshire Town Hall 84 South Main Street (203) 271-6690 until April 3rd. Please contact us if you would like the Memorial Board exhibited in your town. You can see photos of the Memorial Board at www.cthelps.state.ct.us

"What a moving tribute to so many wonderful people. Each of them have stories and loved ones who miss them. God bless them and all who miss them daily."

"Sadly, so many young people, young families and vital individuals no longer here to give energy, and promise to the world. The loss is one we all share on many levels. May you find the strength to carry on."

"Sometimes we complain and take so many things for granted. God Bless all the families touched by this tragedy."

"Very touching- a great tribute. I'm sad and yet happy to see such a touching memorial. I think we should be reminded more often about the celebration of lives the victims were to their friends and families."

"There are no adequate words to express this terrible loss. God bless

you and give you strength. God help us all to stop the hatred and give us the wisdom and the strength to solve our problems peacefully."

"Looking at this memorial brings it back like it was yesterday, yet it seems so long ago in another (way). Our future is questionable, tomorrow is never a definite. There is so much uncertainty. Let us pray for peace in the world and for our leaders. Inner peace is the off spring of faith."

PERSONAL PROPERTY LOST AT THE WTC

Tens of thousands of personal items have been recovered from Ground Zero, Fresh Kills and the Medical Examiner's Office. Wedding rings, watches, photos, jewelry and other sentimental artifacts belonging to those killed on 9/11 are mixed in with the many items left behind by the survivors.

All recovered property is in the custody of the Property Clerk Division of the New York Police Department (NYPD.) Each item has been coded, placed in individual plastic bags, and stored in the NYPD property rooms.

The NYPD has returned hundreds of the more easily traceable objects, like ID and credit cards, wallets, jewelry with inscriptions, cell phones with stored telephone numbers and property with serial numbers

to the rightful owners or the next of kin. Jewelry and other possessions found with bodies also have been returned to families as remains are identified.

For the items that are harder to link with an owner, the NYPD is digitally photographing and coding them for future identification efforts. The regulations which usually allow the destruction or auctioning off of unclaimed property held by the NYPD after a certain holding period **don't** apply to property recovered at the WTC.

If families are looking for any specific items, the NYPD would like to hear from you (see contact info below). The NYPD Property Clerk Division will continue its attempts to return recovered items indefinitely, and all items will be stored until claimed. They are committed to returning all items to their rightful owners (or the next of kin) in the most professional and sensitive way possible while still following the guidelines imposed by law.

For questions, call (646) 610-7209, or visit their website at http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/html/ssb/wtc_property_announcement

Source: Voices of September 11 website- www.voicesofsept11.org

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S AGENCY SERVICES

The Family Connections Breakfasts will continue at the Lockwood Matthews Mansion Museum in Norwalk on Saturday, March 22, April 26, and May 17 from 9AM - 11 AM. Kids' programming includes visits next door at the Stepping Stones Children's Museum.

Art Workshop for 13 - 17 year olds - call Patricia Marsden-Kish at the Family & Children's Agency for more information-203-855-8765.

